ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods for prioritizing data traffic over a shared bandwidth connection. In one embodiment, traffic is prioritized implicitly by governing the rate at which data is launched into the shared bandwidth connection. In another embodiment, mechanisms that couple the Internet to the shared bandwidth connection are explicitly regulated through a control interface. Priority information is coupled through the Internet to front-end computers. The front-end computers couple to the shared bandwidth connection and implement the implicit and/or explicit regulation.